

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016



Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Governors welcome back to a new school year and a very warm welcome to our new parents throughout the school. At our first meeting last week, I was delighted to be re-elected as Chair of Governors. The role of the Governing Body is to work with the staff, parents, pupils, Diocese and the Local Authority to help achieve the schools mission to discover, develop and maximise the potential that exists in each and every child. Since my election as a Parent Governor in 2005 I believe we have achieved this aim and as I start my ninth year in the role of Chairman, I will strive to ensure we continue to do so.

As always seems to be the case, last year was a busy one for the school; alongside embedding the new curriculum, maintaining aspirational achievement targets and continuing our core function of helping to drive the school from Good towards Outstanding, the GB spent considerable time exploring the options open to us as regards conversion to academy status and becoming part of a Multi-academy Trust. As you will have seen from the communication last week (go to [www.nortonfirst.worcs.sch.uk/consultation](http://www.nortonfirst.worcs.sch.uk/consultation) if you missed it) we have reached the stage where we would like to hear your views on the option to form a MAT with 3 like-minded First Schools and Pershore High School; please do let us know if you have any questions or concerns on this proposal, either by dropping a letter or e-mail into the school office or by attending the evening session on 6<sup>th</sup> October at the school.

At NJK we are fortunate to have a dedicated and committed GB that will endeavour to meet and overcome the challenges that face us as we approach an important time in the future of the school. So in addition to taking this opportunity to thank them for their ongoing support I would also like to briefly introduce them to you, trusting that some of the names at least will be familiar:

Mrs Julia Dean: (ex-officio)	Staff (0.6)	Mr Matt Nicholls:	Parent
Mrs Margaret Smith (ex-officio):	Staff (0.4)	Mr James Hurley:	Parent
Mr Jeremy Thomas:	Staff	Mrs Claire Schaus:	Parent
Rev'd Mark Badger:	Foundation	Mr Lawrence Wallbank:	Co-opted
Mr Andrew Longdon: (Chair)	Local Authority	Mr Kevin Fee:	Co-opted
Mrs Mary Birch:	Clerk	Mrs Jan Baker:	Co-opted

We currently have vacancies for Parent Governors and you should have seen nomination letters from our clerk (if not, ask for a copy from the office). As a reminder, the closing date is the end of the school day tomorrow. Please consider volunteering to join us; no specific skills or experiences are required - enthusiasm and a commitment to helping the school and its pupils are the only things you need and in return we offer you a fascinating and rewarding role in the ongoing success and future of NJK and its children.

Rev'd Don Sloggett retired at the end of August following 15 years of service as our local vicar at St James the Great church in Norton and as Foundation Governor at NJK. We thank him for his commitment and dedication to the school and community and wish him well in retirement. His replacement is yet to be appointed by the Diocese but we did welcome Rev'd Mark from St Mary's church in Kempsey during last year, along with new Parent Governors James Hurley and Claire Schaus and Staff Governor Mr Thomas.

Kate Lovegrove sadly lost her brave battle with cancer on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Kate's association with the school began in 2002 when her daughter joined the school in reception and she became a member of the Governing Body in 2005. As with anything that Kate involved herself in, from Parish Council to the Norton Theatre Group, she was never there just to make up the numbers but always determined to make a difference. As an energetic and proactive Governor, she certainly achieved that aim, contributing passionately to the work of the Governing Body, supporting staff and fellow Governors and immersing herself in the life of the school. Whether it was being interviewed by school inspectors, passing on her musical talents to the children, face painting at the summer fetes or just being around to help both children and adults simply feel better, Kate somehow managed to always be there when needed whilst balancing a busy career, social and family life. As a Governor and volunteer the school will miss her greatly, whilst as a dear friend, we will miss her more; she leaves a massive void in our lives and hole in our hearts, but we take some comfort in the many happy memories she has left behind for us cherish. Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers go out to Richard, Harriet and Freddie at this incredibly difficult and painful time. Rest in peace Kate, thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and God Bless you.

Andy Longdon